

Sidetracked: Community/Partners
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

At times all of us get sidetracked about searching for community

Our attempts at dealing with loneliness is a major reason people get lost and confused spiritually.

*Do you remember the first time you realized that the influence of the people in church on your life was not 100% positive?

*How have you been sidetracked in your spiritual life by community?

We have to understand how we were created in this area

Read and discuss Genesis 2:15-18(NIV)

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

¹⁸ The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

*What does this passage say about community?

*Why is connection so important for us?

Jesus calls us to a narrow path in our relationships

Read and discuss Luke 5:1-11 (NIV)

⁵ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

*What does the beginning of Jesus' friendship with Simon Peter say about this narrow path he has called us to?

*What does the wide path of community look like?

The narrow path of Community is:

Relational initiative.

Purposeful relationships.

Forgiveness and healing from relational wounds.

*How is this narrow path challenging to you?

*Where has one of these been successful for you in a healthy relationship?

*How is He prompting you in one or more of these ways?